

**From:** Margaret Rhyne [mailto:m.rhyne@verizon.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2014 11:15 AM

**To:** FGC

**Cc:** alicewollman@roadrunner.com; ontishima1775@gmail.com; rjmeese@ucdavis.edu

**Subject:** Tricolored Blackbirds

Attached you will find a letter from the Poppy Reserve/ Mojave Desert Interpretive Association urging the emergency listing of Tricolored Blackbirds as Endangered. Please share this letter with the Commissioners of the the Department of Fish and Game  
Thank you,

Margaret L. Rhyne

President, Poppy Reserve/ Mojave Desert Interpretive Association

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POPPY RESERVE / MOJAVE DESERT INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
(PR/MDIA)

POST OFFICE BOX 1408, LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93534-9008

July 24, 2014

Dear Fish and Game Commissioners Sutton, Baylis, Kellogg, Rogers, and Hostler-Carmesin

On behalf of the Poppy Reserve/ Mojave Desert Interpretive Association, I urge you to place Tricolored Blackbirds on the California Endangered Species List.

Our organization (PR/MDIA) is a non-profit cooperating association supporting five state parks in the Mojave Desert, including the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve. We support many activities at these parks including facilitating the California State Park volunteer program that keeps the Poppy Reserve open during the wildflower season.

In the spring, the Poppy Reserve volunteers and visitors witness the magnificent phenomenon of flocks of tricolored blackbirds foraging on the Reserve, hunting grasshoppers and other insects to take back to their nests. We are always particularly grateful for the role that these foraging birds play in decreasing the number of grasshoppers that could otherwise devour poppy plants.

**Unfortunately, this past spring these colorful flocks failed to make their annual appearance; this despite the fact that there was a much better than average wildflower bloom on the Reserve resulting in improved numbers of insects as well.**

Please place Tricolored Black Birds on the Endangered Species list before we lose them altogether. The survival of native wildflowers at the Poppy Reserve could very well depend on the survival of these native flocks that are crucial to the maintenance of the sustainable balance of plants, animals and insects necessary for an intact ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Margaret L. Rhyne

President, Poppy Reserve/ Mojave Desert Interpretive Association

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